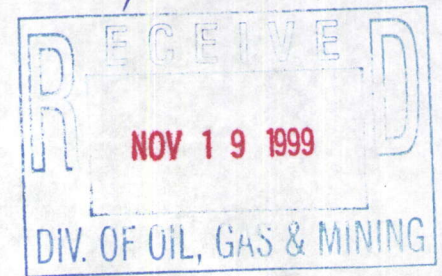


Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation  
8315 West 3595 South  
P.O. Box 6001  
Magna, Utah 84044-6001  
Tel: (801) 252-3257  
Fax: (801) 252-3125

**Paula H. Doughty**  
Manager, Environmental Compliance



**Kennecott**

November 18, 1999

Mr. Kent Grey  
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation  
Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 144480  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4840

Ms. Sharell Shilling  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region VIII  
Emergency Response Branch  
999 18th Street - Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80202-2405

Mr. Dennis Stanley  
Salt Lake County - Emergency Services  
440 South 300 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

**Subject: Follow-up Letter on Release of Tailings Slurry on September 22, 1999,**  
**NRC No. 499856**

Dear Mr. Grey, Ms. Shilling, and Mr. Stanley:

This letter describes the cleanup and engineering actions that have been taken in response to the tailings slurry spill at the Kennecott Copperton Concentrator on September 22, 1999. The notification letter dated September 24 details the events relating to the release. Approximately 100 tons of tailings slurry overflowed through a vent on the tailings pipeline. The slurry entered Barney's Canyon and flowed for approximately 4000 feet before becoming impounded against a road berm on Kennecott Utah Copper property. A thin layer of tailings was deposited along the entire flow path.

No injuries were sustained and no evacuation or outside assistance was required as a result of this incident. No known or anticipated acute or chronic health risks are associated with the release.



Approximately 11,000 gallons of the impounded water was recovered and returned to the process water circuit shortly after the spill. The cleanup of tailings in the canyon was completed on November 9, 1999. A total of 1700 cubic yards of tailings and tailings contaminated soils were removed during the cleanup action. This material contained too much debris to be returned to the process circuit, so it was transported to the foot of the Bingham Canyon waste rock dump. Normal waste rock disposal operations have already covered the tailings. This area is located above Kennecott Utah Copper's surface and groundwater control systems for the waste rock disposal areas.

Several vents on the tailings pipeline are being modified to minimize the risk of another tailings spill. Three vents on the new pipeline near Barneys Canyon and one vent immediately below the point where the old and new pipelines combine are being fitted with HDPE extensions. The extensions are 36 inches in diameter, 48 inches tall and contain two baffles to prevent slurry from burping out. A small settling basin has also been constructed beneath the pipeline in Barneys Canyon. In the event of another spill the basin will contain most of the solids in a small area where they can be rapidly cleaned up. Water will flow downstream until it is impounded against a road berm where it could also be rapidly recovered.

If you have any questions regarding the actions taken in response to this incident, please call me at (801) 252-3257.

Sincerely,

*Lydia L. Salmon*  
for Paula H. Doughty  
Manager, Environmental Compliance

cc: Wayne Hedberg, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
Dan Hall, Utah Division of Water Quality